

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 07832 121659Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-05 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /092 W
-----064813 121718Z /41

O R 121607Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8667
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7832

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, MOPS, US
SUBJ: FIRST REACTION TO GOI APPROVAL OF WORKING PAPER

1. THE PRESS' INITIAL (AND THUS FAR LIMITED) REACTION
TO THE CABINET'S UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE WORKING PAPER
WAS MIXED BUT ESSENTIALLY REFLECTED CAUTIOUS APPROVAL
TINGED WITH SOME ANXIETY AS TO THE ARAB RESPONSE.

2. THE CABINET'S DECISION LAST NIGHT CAME TOO LATE
FOR MOST MORNING PAPER EDITORIALS. HOWEVER, IN
APPARENT ANTICIPATION OF THE CABINET'S DECISION, AL
HAMISHMAR OPINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S FLEXIBILITY
ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR AN INFLEXIBLE
POLICY ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE OF THE WEST BANK. THE
PAPER REMAINS CONCERNED OVER THE EFFECT OF THE U.S.-SOVIET
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JOINT STATEMENT AND FEARS THAT AT GENEVA ISRAEL
WILL FACE A UNITED ARAB FRONT BACKED BY THE TWO SUPER
POWERS. IF THE CONFERENCE FAILS, THE BLAME WOULD
THUS BE PLACED ON ISRAEL.

3. HATZOFEH WRITES THAT PROCEDURE IS CLOSELY TIED
TO SUBSTANCE AND COMPLIMENTS THE GOVERNMENT FOR DIS-

PLAYING FLEXIBILITY, AT THE SAME TIME CAUTIONING IT TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST FUTURE (PRESUMABLY ARAB INSPIRED) CHANGES IN THE WORKING PAPER. IT URGES THOROUGH PREPARATION FOR GENEVA AND A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S. ON THE KEY ISSUES.

4. THE AFTERNOON DAILY, MAARIV, DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE CABINET APPROVAL HAS ALLAYED DOUBTS ABOUT THE WORKING PAPER'S CONTENTS AND EXPRESSES THE HOPE FOR FULL DISCLOSURE. THE DAILY IS DISTURBED BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S HINT THAT THE WORKING PAPER MAY NEED FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

5. ISRAEL'S OTHER MASS CIRCULATION DAILY, YEDIOT AHARONOT, ALSO ASSERTS THAT THE CONTENTS REMAIN DUBIOUS AND THEORIZES THAT ONE REASON FOR THE GOI APPROVAL IS THE FEAR THAT REJECTION WOULD HAVE ENHANCED THE IMPORTANCE OF "AN EVEN WORSE DOCUMENT" I.E., THE U.S.-SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT. HOWEVER, YEDIOT COLUMNIST GUINEY IS PLEASED WITH THE CABINET'S DECISION, BELIEVING THAT IT HAS REMOVED THE TENSION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND HAS PLACED THE BALL IN THE ARAB COURT. HE THINKS THAT IF THE ARABS DEMAND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES, WHICH HE PREDICTS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL, IT IS THEY WHO WOULD BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE OF RE-

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CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

6. ISRAEL RADIO HAS JUST REPORTED THAT DAYAN AND MFA LEGAL ADVISER ROSENNE APPEARED BEFORE THE KNESSET'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE WHERE THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO INTENSE QUESTIONING. THE REPORT ADDS THAT A NUMBER OF MKS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE RULING LIKUD PARTY, WERE CRITICAL. (LIKE THE CABINET SESSION, THE COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATION WAS SECRET.)

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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